

THIS IS AN HISTORIC DAY AND ONE FILLED WITH GREAT
MEANING FOR ALL OF US ^{NATURALLY THOSE OF US THAT} ~~AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO NEW TOMORROWS~~
~~HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED ARE TERRIBLY DISAPPOINTED~~
~~AND NEW BEGINNINGS. THAT BECAUSE OF NO NETWORK COVERAGE~~
~~AT SPLASH DOWN, THE WORLD COULD NOT SHARE THIS EXPERIENCE WITH~~
EVERYTHING THAT WE HAVE DONE IN THE SKYLAB PROGRAM ^{US.}

HAS BEEN NECESSARY FOR FUTURE PROGRESS IN SPACE AND THE
SKYLAB EXPERIENCE HAS CONFIRMED THAT WE ARE REALLY ON THE
RIGHT TRACK IN PROCEEDING TO DEVELOP THE SPACE SHUTTLE
AND ITS SPACELAB MANNED MODULE FOR USE IN THE 1980s AND
1990s.

SKYLAB, IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT
THIS NATION IS CAPABLE OF CONDUCTING BROADER AND MORE
USEFUL BENEFICIAL ACTIVITIES IN SPACE THAT DIRECTLY RELATE
TO OUR OWN PLANET EARTH. IT HAS SERVED US WELL AS A TRUE
ORBITING RESEARCH FACILITY ENABLING OUR ASTRONAUTS TO
CARRY OUT A WIDE SPECTRUM OF SCIENTIFIC, ENGINEERING
AND BIOMEDICAL STUDIES.

TO APPRECIATE THE BROAD CAPABILITIES OF SKYLAB WE
SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S LANDMARK SPEECH ON
SPACE EXPLORATION WHICH HE MADE ON MARCH 7, 1970. IN
THAT SPEECH, THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT THREE PURPOSES

SHOULD GUIDE OUR SPACE PROGRAM: EXPLORATION, SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION. SKYLAB AND THE SKYLAB MEN HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY ALL OF THESE PURPOSES.

IT WAS ALSO SAID THAT WE MUST SEE OUR SPACE EFFORT NOT ONLY AS AN ADVENTURE OF TODAY, BUT ALSO AS AN INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW, AND THAT SPACE ACTIVITIES WILL BE A PART OF OUR LIVES FOR THE REST OF TIME.

SKYLAB HAS SHOWN THE WAY. IN A VERY REAL SENSE, SKYLAB CAN BE CONSIDERED A TURNING POINT--FOR WHILE IT WAS STILL BASICALLY AN EXPERIMENTAL SPACE STATION, IT NEVERTHELESS POSSESSED MANY QUALITIES AND INGREDIENTS THAT WILL CHARACTERIZE OPERATIONAL MISSIONS OF THE FUTURE. IT HAS MOVED THE SPACE PROGRAM FROM THE REALM OF THE SPECTACULAR INTO A NEW PHASE THAT CAN BE CHARACTERIZED POSSIBLY AS ALMOST BUSINESSLIKE, IF NOT YET QUITE ROUTINE.

THE INVESTMENT IN SKYLAB HAS CONTRIBUTED TO AN ORDERLY TRANSITION FROM THE APOLLO ERA OF THE 1960s TO THE SHUTTLE/SPACELAB ERA OF THE 1980s AND HAS CONTINUED U.S. LEADERSHIP IN MANNED SPACE FLIGHT. WE HAVE CLEARLY

DEMONSTRATED THAT MEN CAN PERFORM VALUABLE SERVICES
IN EARTH ORBIT AS OBSERVERS, SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS AND
REPAIRMEN. SKYLAB HAS GIVEN US A WEALTH OF NEW INFORMATION
ABOUT THE DYNAMIC PROCESSES OF THE SUN, PROVIDED NEW
EVIDENCE OF THE VALUE OF EARTH OBSERVATIONS FROM SPACE,
HELPED DEFINE THE FEASIBILITY OF MAKING NEW PRODUCTS IN
ZERO GRAVITY, AND HAS STIMULATED INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION IN SPACE. THESE RETURNS FROM OUR SKYLAB
INVESTMENT ALREADY ARE IMPRESSIVE, BUT, I SHOULD POINT
OUT, THE RETURNS ARE NOT ALL IN. WE WILL BE HEARING MUCH
^{ABOUT WHAT HAS FOUND} MORE IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. INDEED, WE WILL BE LIVING WITH
^{ACHIEVEMENTS} OUR SKYLAB SUCCESS FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.